

REMARKS

By the present Preliminary Amendment, all multiple dependency has been eliminated from the original claims, certain claim language more typically used in U.S. practice has been substituted and new dependent claims 12-19 have been added which relate to certain aspects of the original multiple dependent claims. It is to be understood that the revisions to the claims are solely for formalistic purposes and not with regard to patentability and that applicants reserve the right to pursue claims directed to other aspects of the invention encompassed by the original multiple dependent claims or described in the specification.

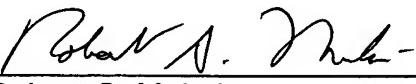
Entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date: January 13, 2005

By: 

Robert G. Mukai
Registration No. 28,531

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620